

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 IO-14 ICA-20
L-03 OIC-02 INT-05 /108 W
-----052952 040401Z /15

R 021603Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10796

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, CCC, BE
SUBJ: 15TH SESSION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM COMMITTEE,
BRUSSELS, MAY 22-JUNE 2, 1978.

1) MAJOR GENERAL QUESTION CONSIDERED AT SESSION WAS
REVIEW OF WORKING METHODS OF COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING
PARTY. U.K. DELEGATION SUGGESTED, AS COMPROMISE SOLUTION,
THAT THERE BE 3 WEEK SESSIONS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS.
WORK NOT COMPLETED IN FIRST PART OF SESSION TO BE CARRIED
OVER TO FIRST PART OF THE FOLLOWING SESSION. U.S.
DELEGATION STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS PROPOSAL, POINTING
OUT THAT AT THE PRESENT STATE OF THE WORK THIS SOLUTION
COULD NOT GET THE WORK COMPLETED WITHIN 1981 DEADLINE SET
BY COUNCIL.

2) NEVERTHELESS ON A VOTE OF 6 TO 3 WITH 5 ABSTENTIONS
COMMITTEE WAS RECOMMENDED THAT :
- AGENDA FOR WP BE PRESENTED IN TWO PARTS, CONSIDERATION
OF THE FIRST PART TO BE LIMITED TO A SPECIFIED
PERIOD WHETHER OR NOT THAT PART OF THE AGENDA HAS
BEEN COMPLETED.
- EVALUATION OF GROUPS OF ITEMS TO BE EXAMINED BY THE
WORKING PARTY IN EACH WEEK AND TO INDICATE THIS
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TIMETABLE IN THE WORK PROGRAM FOR EACH SESSION.
- COMMITTEE EMPHASIZE TO COUNCIL THE VIEW THAT PRIORITY
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CHOICE OF THE HARMONIZED
SYSTEM COMMITTEE AND NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE DATES
WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CALENDAR, HAVING REGARD
TO :
(A) NEED TO COMPLY WITH A FIRM TARGET DATE;

(B) THE EXTRA PRODUCTIVITY WHICH WILL ARISE FROM
EXTENDED SESSIONS AND THE CONSEQUENT DEMANDS
OF DELEGATIONS TAKING PART IN BOTH HARMONIZED
SYSTEM COMMITTEE AND NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE
MEETINGS.

3) WITH RESPECT TO TECHNICAL DECISIONS CONCERNING THE
HARMONIZED SYSTEM TAKEN BY NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE AT
ITS 40TH SESSION, ALL WERE ACCEPTED WITH EXCEPTION OF
CHAPTER 48 WHICH WAS PUT OFF TO NEXT SESSION.

4) QUESTION OF THE TEXT OF HEADING 64.01 WAS RESOLVED
TO SATISFACTION OF USDEL. QUESTION CONCERNING COPPER
ALLOYED AND NOT ALLOYED WAS RESOLVED IN ACCORD WITH
USG POSITION.

5) QUESTION CONCERNING TEXT OF HEADING 15.09, PERTAINING
TO OLIVE OIL WAS RAISED BY TUNISIA AND ITALY. THEY
ALLEGE THAT DEFINITION IS CONTRARY TO FAO STANDARDS AND
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. QUESTION WILL BE TAKEN UP AT
A LATER TIME AFTER REVIEW BY THE INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL
COUNCIL.

6) OTHER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS WERE HANDLED ABOUT AS
EXPECTED. COMMITTEE COMPLETED A FURTHER PORTION OF
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CHAPTER 84, MACHINERY, AS WELL AS CHAPTERS DEALING WITH
TOBACCO, SUGAR, ANIMAL, PREPARATIONS, FRUIT AND PRODUCTS
THEREOF.

7) USDEL CONTINUES TO HAVE PROBLEMS IN GETTING U.S.
PROPOSALS ADOPTED BECAUSE OF BLOC VOTING BY THE MEMBER
STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. OTHER DELEGATIONS
HAVE PRIVATELY VOICED CONCERN OVER THIS SITUATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE10796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780233-0621
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806104/aaaadlkj.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d6d147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2150804
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 15TH SESSION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM COMMITTEE, BRUSSELS, MAY 22-JUNE 2, 1978. 1) MAJOR GENERAL QUESTION CONSIDERED AT SESSION WA
TAGS: AORG, BE, CCC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d6d147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014